

Claims:

1. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:
 - a tube having an outer surface;
 - a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a hydrophobic porous material wherein the pore size of the filter ranges from greater than .45 μm to about 5.0 μm ; and
 - the vent having a surface area ranging from about 0.8 cm^2 to about 5.0 cm^2 .
2. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the filter is flush with the outer surface of the volume reservoir.
3. The drip chamber of claim 2 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the volume reservoir.
4. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the volume reservoir is rigid.